

DESERT ROUNDUP



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TACTS Posts Record Year

By JO2 Luke Johnson,
NSAWC Public Affairs

The Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center (NSAWC) ended its busiest year with a record 20,000 Tactical Air Combat Training System (TACTS) sorties. The previous record was 16,000 sorties which was set last year.

According to TACTS mission director, James Bell, A sortie is each individual aircraft that goes out on the air combat training range.

"We load equipment on the aircraft to allow us to track them. Every time we track one, we count it," said Bell.

Over the last year and a half, TACTS crews have been working almost nonstop due to the increased number of air wings coming out to Fallon for air warfare training, stated Bell.

"We have had crews work overtime, weekends, and even holidays.

It has been pretty much nonstop," said Bell.

TACTS is a system designed to provide real time surveillance of what is going on out in NAS Fallon's training range. It operates through a system of solar powered panel tracking sites on the ground, computers links, and data links to provide instant updates of training missions. The TACTS system was installed at NAS Fallon in 1984, and over the years it has seen many upgrades.

"It is a recording and replay system we use to debrief aircrew when they come back, and it also allows us to interact live while the mission is going on," said Bell.

TACTS is an important training tool because it provides a realistic threat environment for air wings to train in. There are electronic warfare systems integrated into TACTS, and there is also threat aircraft incorporated into TACTS.

Complex training mission scenarios

are impossible to recreate, and TACTS is a valuable tool because it allows air wings training at Fallon to play back complex training scenarios. Aircrews can fully analyze the training they have received at NSAWC and learn what they did right and wrong on training missions, stated Bell.

"We work with the air wings, Top Gun, Strike Fighter Advanced Readiness Program, and Fleet Replacement Squadrons training staffs to identify what they need in their training scenarios, and we take what support assets we have and start plugging those in to fit their requirements," said Bell.

Over the years, the Fallon training range has become more of a graduate level training range with more sophisticated and complex training missions. TACTS helps aircrews fully analyze their complicated training missions and make improvements.

"We are by far the biggest Navy



Representatives of NSAWC, Naval Surface Warfare Center, NAS Fallon, and Lockheed Martin show off their record-breaking sortie number passing a previous record of 16,000. Names from left to right: B.J. Craig, Mike Vanderbeek, Al Mathern, Barry Warner, Jim Shurtliff, Mark Jones, Doug Bell, Kelly Niedfeldt, Al Hart, Mike Brandt, Leo Beyer, Dan Chastain, Ed Lipnicki, Lt. Cmdr. Lynn Tawney, Edward G. Lipnicki

range in terms of sortie count, and the next busiest Navy range flies about 7,000 sorties," said Bell.

After a record-breaking year at

NSAWC, Bell does not for see NSAWC breaking the TACTS sortie record for a long time to come.

Identity Theft: It's out there, It Could Happen to You

By: JO3 Denise Morris

Why this is so important right now:

TriWest experienced a break-in at one of its corporate offices in Phoenix on Dec. 14, which resulted in the theft of computer equipment. The equipment housed data files that contained sensitive and personal TRICARE Prime beneficiary information including beneficiary's claims history and Social Security Number (SSN).

Although there is no information about the motive for the crime or whether the information will ever be accessed or misused, beneficiaries are being advised of this situation to begin taking precautions to watch out for any unauthorized use of SSNs or credit-card accounts.

credit-card accounts.

TriWest is working with the Department of Defense, the FBI and other local and federal agencies to address the theft of this computer equipment. Your patience and understanding as TriWest fully investigates this matter is greatly appreciated. TriWest has produced the following information that explains details of this break-in, the theft of computer equipment and what type of information was potentially compromised.

The Prime beneficiary information is the same as that contained on the TRICARE enrollment form. For some active duty servicemembers their claims processing information may have been disclosed which includes the active duty service member's name, SSN, a list of the medical procedures and diagnosis codes for the services rendered, the dates of service, where the service was rendered and the claim amount. (No information regarding beneficiaries 65 and older was contained on the stolen computer equipment, unless those individuals were enrolled

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FTC Booklet Details Help For Victims of Identity Theft

By Gerry J. Gilmore, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON -- A Federal Trade Commission (FTC) booklet is offering guidance for people who've fallen victim to a fast-growing crime: identity theft.

Department of Defense officials believe it is possible that some TRICARE beneficiaries could be subjected to identity thievery after the Dec. 14 theft of TriWest Healthcare Alliance office computers in Phoenix.

The FTC publication "ID Theft: When Bad Things Happen to Your Good Name" points out that skilled identity thieves use a variety of methods - low and high tech - to gain access to personal data like social security numbers and credit card account information.

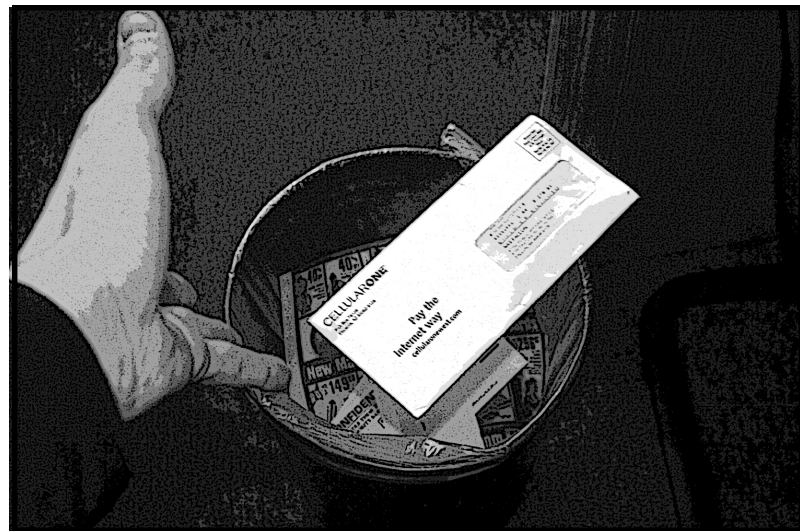
Identity thieves use the information to open new credit accounts, running up thousands of dollars of illicit bills, including bank and automobile loans, all of which are charged to the victim.

The FTC publication, which can be accessed online at www.consumer.gov/idtheft, noted the risk of identify theft has been increasing across the United States since the early 1990s.

In fact, Congress enacted the Identity Theft and Assumption Deterrence Act of 1998 to combat the problem, the booklet explained. In recent years, many states have passed laws addressing identity theft, while other states are considering such laws.

William Winkenwerder Jr., the assistant secretary of defense for

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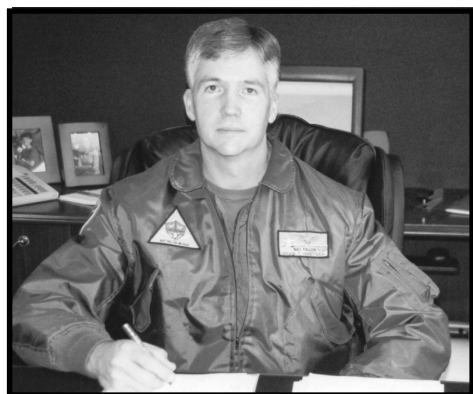


Throwing away an envelope that may contain personal information in it makes for an easy target to some criminals who wish to access personal accounts (Photo illustration by JO2 Eric D. Ritter)

Captain's Call



Question to the Skipper:



"Almost without fail, daily, vehicles with loud, thumping music go by my office distracting us from our work. Is there a noise ordinance on base, or could we at least have 'quite' zones set up?"

Yes, there are... Contact Security with the vehicle description, plate # etc. They'll take care of the offender.

Chaplain Chat

By Father Tom Friedl

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Two weeks into the new year, and have you already compromised or broken your resolutions? There is something exciting about the new year—fresh beginnings, new possibilities, opportunities...challenges yet to be met.

Here in the Chaplain's office, this New Year will bring the awesome wonder of (first-time) parenthood to both RP's. A new Command Chap-

lain will report on board in June. For some of the sailors on board NASF this will be a year for retirement from the Navy, leaving active duty, or moving to the next duty station. There is much promise in each and every day that unfolds in this year 2003.

But the bright promise of the New Year seems to fade as we contemplate world events. At this moment in our nation's history, we are being asked to consider the evil that a few individuals represent and the potential harm they can unleash. As we collectively wrestle with these issues, let us keep the many troops being sent to the Middle East in our prayers. We know this is not how they wished the new year would unfold for them and their loved ones. We do not know what all the consequences of armed conflict might bring. We must continue to beseech heaven with our prayer, that those who choose to perpetrate evil will get the message that our world desires peace. And our sincerest prayer gives voice to our deepest desire that peaceful solutions may be found without shedding blood on a battlefield.

Just as the world events demonstrate that one person's [evil] choices can have global consequences, so your individual choices also matter. As this New Year begins, I hope and pray that your resolutions will go beyond the trite and mundane. The New Year presents to you the opportunity to perhaps make life-transforming decisions – decisions that help you grow into the person that the Creator intends you to become. It might be the decision to begin working on a college degree. It might be the decision to seek help restoring a faltering marriage. It might even be the decision to return to active worship with a faith community.

New things can happen to you in the New Year if you approach each day with hope and trust that God's grace is yours. And, there is no better place to experience this than with a community that joins together in prayer and praise, a community of faith that knows we are called to make this

world a better place through our individual decisions. That was the choice Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. made in his time among us. Martin's courage to fight for civil rights came from the deep spiritual convictions formed in his community and church. He chose to put into action his love for God with the hope that his message would change people's hearts and take shape in their minds. His decision to stand up against the evil of segregation and racism changed us as a nation and its repercussions still ripple through the years. Let us all be encouraged by Martin Luther King's vision to make our choices matter for the good of this world.

May this New Year bring you many blessings. And may God's angels watch over all who prepare to protect us from harm. Peace to all.

JEWISH SEDER SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE CHAPLAIN—Jewish Passover begins sunset 16 April with the Seder Meal. A *Passover Kosher Solo Seder Kit* is available to Jewish military personnel at isolated duty stations where the opportunity to observe the Passover Seder Meal with others is limited. Any personnel needing this special solo kit or wanting to know what the kit contains, please contact Fr. Tom at the chapel no later than February 16th. The kit will be provided free of charge. Please let the Commissary know of any special food needs you may have for Passover so that special kosher orders can be made for you (your expense).

Chapel Services

Catholic

Sunday: 9:30a.m. Mass

For other Catholic services available in town, please call St. Patrick's at 423-2846

Protestant

Sunday: 11a.m. Worship Service
Communion Sunday is the first Sunday of each month.

CNO Charts Navy's Course for 2003

By Chief Journalist Walter T. Ham IV,
Chief of Naval Operations Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vern Clark praises Sailors for the Navy's tremendous successes in 2002 and announces a broad range of initiatives to ensure the Navy stays ready to fight and win in the 21st century, in the new CNO Guidance, released this weekend.

In CNO Guidance 2003, which is available at www.navy.mil/cno, the CNO says the Navy will focus on winning the war on terrorism; protecting the nation and our forces; and achieving the Navy's Sea Power 21 vision.

"It will require hard choices and determined leadership at all levels," said Clark. "We must challenge every assumption and search for new and better ways to accomplish our tasks. We must refine requirements, conduct innovative operations, and optimally allocate resources to achieve efficiencies and recapitalize the fleet."

The CNO says the Navy achieved tremendous success in 2002, both in the war on terrorism and in the Navy's Top Five priorities (manpower, current readiness, future readiness, quality of service and alignment).

"Our men and women operating in the air, on and under the sea, and on the ground are at the leading edge of the global war on terrorism," said Clark. "Forward deployed, combat ready naval forces - sustained by naval and civilian shipmates around the world - are proving every day the unique value of sovereign, independent forces projecting power from the sea."

The Navy is currently the most ready it has ever been during its history, Clark adds. Since Sept. 11, 2001, eight carrier battle groups, six amphibious ready groups, and nearly 100,000 Sailors and Marines deployed around the world in support of the global war on terrorism.

The CNO says he is pleased with the progress the Navy has made in manpower and current readiness since the CNO Guidance for 2002 was published.

"In last year's Guidance, I challenged each of you to make our great Navy even better by enhancing mission accomplishment, deepening the growth and development of our people, and developing innovative operational concepts and capabilities ... and you delivered," said Clark.

"We are enjoying now the best manning I have witnessed in my career...our investment in personnel readiness was merely the foundation.

Your efforts were the reason for our operational success. You encouraged our people to excel and focused them on mission accomplishment."

"We have the most ready force in our history. Over the past year, our investment in training, spare parts, ordnance, and fuel accounts enabled our fleet to be ready earlier, deploy at a higher state of readiness, and build a more responsive surge capability. These investments were vital to sustaining the war on terrorism and assuring friends and allies with our global response."

Clark adds that our on-going success in manpower and current readiness allows the Navy to focus on implementing Sea Power 21. This vision provides the framework for accelerating operational concepts and technologies to improve warfighting effectiveness and enhance homeland security; shaping and educating our force to operate tomorrow's fleet; sustaining readiness; and harvesting efficiencies to invest in the Navy of the future.

"The significant progress made over the past two years in manpower and current readiness makes it possible to place more emphasis on future readiness to transform our Navy for the challenges ahead. It will take

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The Desert Roundup
Editorial Office, Public Affairs Office
NAS Fallon, NV 89496

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Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation of any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. If a violation of this equal opportunity policy by an Advertiser is confirmed, the publisher shall refuse to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected. Inquiries regarding the placement of paid advertising should be directed to the Lahontan Valley News and Fallon Eagle Standard Advertis-

ing Manager at 562 N. Maine St., Fallon, NV 89407 or by telephone at (775) 423-6041.

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News Submission: The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office, NAS Fallon.

Submissions in the form of news and feature stories, photographs and letters to the editor are encouraged; these must include author's name, rating, rank and unit for military, and position and department for civilian personnel.

All submissions, with the exception of letters to the editor, must include duty phone number for verification of information. Signed letters to the editor will be considered for publication unless the writer requests that the contents not be published. Names will be withheld upon request. News and feature copy may be edited for adherence to appropriate news style and are subject to editing due to space limitations. Submit articles by e-mail or in text format on 3.5" disks and hard copy. Deadline is noon, nine days prior to publication.

Classified Ads: Classified advertising of personal items and services for

sale by members of the command may be accepted free of charge provided such items and services are not business operations, but represent an incidental exchange between active duty and retired military personnel and their families and from civilian employees at NAS Fallon. Free classified ads are limited to 24 words or less and must be submitted directly to the publisher on a form available in the Public Affairs Office.

Deadline for free classified ads is the same as the deadline for submission of article and photos. These ads are accepted only by mail or delivery by the above date to the office of the publisher, no phone-in ads will be accepted. Free classified ads may be emailed to eric.ritter@navy.mil

Capt. Brad T. Goetsch, Commanding Officer
Cmdr. Ed Rybold, Executive Officer
Zip Upham, Public Affairs Officer
JO2 Eric D. Ritter, Editor/Layout&design/Photographer/Writer
JO3 Denise Morris, Staff Writer/Photographer

Chief Mable set to retire

Equal Opportunity Advisor, PRC(AW) Phillip Mable, is set to retire after 22 years of active duty Navy service. Everyone is invited to attend the ceremony, Thursday, Jan. 23, 10am in the base chapel

Youth Activities Center, ITT ski season begins

Continuing every other Saturday (weather permitting) Through March

The program is open to all eligible youth ages 12-18. The cost is \$40.00 per Saturday. This includes equipment rental, 2 hr lesson, lift ticket and transportation. Please send a lunch or money to buy a lunch.

We will be departing from the YOUTHACTIVITIES (YAC) parking lot at 9:30am, lesson begin at noon run for two hours with time to practice what they learned until 4pm. We will be returning to the YA around 6:00pm. We will need to have your child(ren) registered by the Wednesday prior to the scheduled trip. Payment is due at the time of registration.

We are accepting parent volunteers; lift ticket will be reduced to \$21 with 50% discount on lessons or equipment rental. Contact Shannon Goodrick, at the YAC for more information, 426-3777 or email Shannon.Goodrick@navy.mil or Karen Cline at ITT 426-2275 or email Karen.Cline@navy.mil.

**2003 PAY INFORMATION**

PAY RAISE. The monthly basic pay rates rose an average of 4.8% on January 2003. The minimum raise mandated by law for all service members is 4.1%. To access pay charts please go to <http://www.dfas.mil>.

ALLOWANCES. Various allowances have increased effective now. To check current rates and allowances on BAH, CONUS COLA, DLA, Mileage Rates, COLA, OHA, Pier Diem Rates, and Meal Rates please visit the website: <http://www.dtic.mil/perdiem/rateinfo.html>.

W-2 INFORMATION FOR TAX YEAR 2002

Beginning with tax season 2002, Navy active duty members will have two venues to receive their initial W-2s. Members will be able to access and print their initial W-2s via <http://www.mypay.com> effective Jan 27. In addition, W-2s will still be mailed on 27 January 2003 by DFAS to the servicing Personnel Support Detachment. Once PSD Fallon receives the W-2s, commands will be notified for immediate delivery.

BZs on base



Polly Elam (far left), CNRSW Child Development Program administrator, presents Kathy Hill(left) with an award for completion of her Child Development Associate credential. This credential represents about 1.5 years of additional work which she acquired often on her own time.

Recognition is given to the following (above) for participation in the Nevada Apprenticeship Child Development Specialist Program: In alphabetical order: Nykaniara Godwin, Angelia Hall, Barbara Haughton, Kathy Hill, Christina Lipnicki, Shelly Matthews and Hazel Yates.

Congratulations, Chief Norris



AOC(AW) Matthew Norris (right) is congratulated by AIMU, OIC, Cmdr. Robert Boserman after Norris' re-enlistment during a ceremony recently. (Photo provided by AO1(AW) Andres Vasquez)

NEWS& NOTES

SILVER STATE OFFICERS' CLUB:
426-2625
Bar Dinner Special
Jan. 8 5pm – 8pm
Ribeye Steak \$9.95
Salad, potato and vegi's included
Family Night Italian Style Buffet
Jan. 9 5pm – 8pm

\$9.95 per person
Advisory Board
Jan 14 at 3:30pm
French Dip Sandwich Special
\$5.95 that evening
ALL HANDS LUNCH BUFFET
Jan 15 11am – 1pm
\$6.95
No Theme Party Night with the Band!
Bar/Dinner Special Night
Jan 16 5pm – 8pm
Fish & Chips \$5.95

Jan 17
Band "Fast Forward" 8pm
Surf & Turf Night
Jan 23 5pm – 8pm
Prime Rib \$12.95
King Crab Legs \$19.95
Combo plate \$25.75
Bar/Dinner Special Night
Jan 30 5pm – 8pm
Top Sirloin Steak \$9.95
Salad, vegi's and potato included
WATCH FOR MARDI GRAS

COMING TO THE O'CLUB FAT
FRIDAY, FEB 28!!
SUPER BOWL XXXVII
Jan. 26...be watching for party de-
tails!
SPINNERS' CYBERCAFE
WARM UP...Eggnog Lattes and Va-
nilla Steamed Milk!
Call-in orders...426-3672
Jst REC-it EVENTS!
"Liberty Program"
All Single Military & Geo-bachelors

welcome...
Movie/Pizza Night
Jan 14 at 6pm
Come join us for FREE pizza and a movie call 426-2836
Dinner & Shopping in Reno
Jan 18
Departing at 10am and returning at 7pm. Call 426-2836 to sign up
AUTO HOBBY SHOP:
January Special
Tire Rotation & Balance 25% Off
426-2575
HEALTH & WELLNESS
OASIS FITNESS CENTER:
New Year's Resolution
Walk/Run Challenge
A month-long event, stop by to get started...Call 426-2251
2003 Sports Season continues with
Captain's Cup Basketball starts 6 Jan. Call Marcia at 426-3762 for more information.
INDOOR POOL SWIM LESSONS
Ages 3 & up, registration begins Jan 6
Call 426-2791
ITT CALENDAR OF EVENTS:
Month of January only...
Heavenly ski tickets \$50 (\$7 savings)
Ride and Ski
Jan 18 7am till 6pm
\$35 includes: lift ticket to Mt. Rose and bus ride to resort 426-2865
Want to set up your own trip, no problem.. Call 426-2865 and tell us where you want to go and we'll help you get there!
HOT STUFF PIZZA:
Delivery : 426-2454
ITT/YOUTH ACTIVITIES:
426-3777
Youth Ski Special...the first of several Jan 4 Includes lesson, equipment, lift ticket & transportation \$40 per youth
Family Night at the Youth Center
Jan 17 6pm – 8pm
SAGEBRUSH BOWL:
Trying to start up a sanctioned league for NASF...we will be having a meeting for all interested to discuss details and elect officers...
Jan 15 at 5pm, 426-2451
OUTDOOR RECREATION:
January Ski Repairs Special
Ski/Snowboard "The Works"
Includes any base repairs needed, edge sharpening & flat file, hot wax & recalibration of ski's to boots...normally \$35, \$20 for this month only! 426-2598

Harrah's Special
Now that the holidays are over, it's time to relax, unwind and take a mid-winter break at Harrah's Reno
Harrah's Reno along with the Ticket Office at NAS Fallon would like to extend our offer of a Complimentary Room for the months of January and February Sunday thru Friday, based on availability. This would include room, tax, and free Show Voucher for Gordie Brown or Motorcity.
This offer like the one we held in December will now be extended to include all eligible MWR patrons.
To make your reservations you can either, call 426-2275, email karen.cline@navy.mil

Eval, Fitrep Status Available Online

By Lt. Cmdr. Chris Zaller,
Navy Personnel Command

MILLINGTON, Tenn. — Reporting seniors and other Navy personnel now have an online means of obtaining fitness reports (FITREPS) and evaluation information.

This new capability can be accessed from the Bureau of Naval Personnel (BUPERS) Online home page. Simply select the "FITREP/EVAL REPORTS" icon and follow the instructions. Three separate reports are available.

The first report is the Performance Evaluation Continuity report. It provides the member with the sta-

tus of FITREPS/Evaluations for the most recent five years and lists any upcoming boards the member is eligible for. The report shows what reports, if any, are missing and provides a link to pages describing how to submit corrections. This is the same five-year continuity report the Selection Board Support Branch runs for all board-eligible personnel.

The second report is the Reporting Senior's Performance Evaluation Submission report. This lists all of the reports that were received for that reporting senior and their processing status.

The third report is the Reporting Senior's Cumulative Average report.

Prior to this application, reporting seniors had to request their averages in writing. This new method provides online access and, in conjunction with the submission report above, can be used to accurately track what the FITREP/Evaluation system holds their average to be.

It is important to remember how and when these averages are computed. In a nutshell, the calculation of averages is delayed 90 days from the ending date of regular periodic

reports. This allows ample time for reports to be received and examined, and for any rejected reports to be turned around prior to the average being computed.

In addition to this delay, the average is updated only once each month. Keep in mind that the average is based on "accepted" reports only. Failure to submit reports in accordance with guidelines stated in BUPERSINST 1610.10 can result in the report(s) or an entire summary

group being excluded from the cumulative average computation.

Some users, as well as some non-Navy reporting seniors, may not have access to BUPERS Online. These individuals may contact the Fitness Report and Evaluation Customer Service Desk at (901) 874-3344/3315/3316 or email p311c@persnet.navy.mil for assistance.

For related news, visit the Chief of Naval Personnel Navy NewsStand page at www.news.navy.mil/local/cnp.

The Desert Classifieds

Pets:

--If you're looking for a new or lost pet, please check with the Churchill Animal Protection Society (CAPS). They have a number of animals available for adoption or sponsorship. Call 423-7500 for more information.

Autos:

--2001 GMC Jimmy 4x4 SUV for sale. 26,000 miles, every option but leather. still under warranty. asking \$18,500 firm, well under blue book. Ask for Joel 428-6898

For sale: '86 Mercury Cougar; automatic; runs well but needs some work; \$650 obo; call Shaun at 428-6645

--'93 Ford Explorer 4x4 Sport 2D. Forest green w/ tan leather. AC, power everything, cruise, alarm. Excellent condition at NASF Lemon Lot, \$4,250 -- email: wannabebob@yahoo.com or call bill at 426-3162

--Motorcycles: 1998 RM 125 Suzuki, many-many extra parts, excellent running machine, must go... asking \$2,850.00 or best offer (O.B.O.); 2001 RM 125 Suzuki, brand new with low hours, must go, asking \$3,750.00 or best offer (O.B.O.) Truck: 1997 Dodge Ram 1500, extended cab, 4x4, 5.9L V-8, automatic transmission, power everything, 3.5 inch lift with off-road tires, sprayed in bed liner, asking \$16,500.00 or best offer (O.B.O.) Contact Dustin Wiggans anytime. Work (775) 426-2319 or Home (775) 428-1122.

--1998 Jeep Grand Cherokee 5.9 Ltd 4x4, AT, CD, Leather, Silver Metallic, A/C, PW,PD/L, Onboard Computer, Nice Condition, 93k miles, \$14,500 OBO. Call Steve (775) 745-0837.--1989 Olds Cutlass Sierra, V6, 4DR, AT, Blue, Cassette, Runs Well, 190k miles, \$1000 OBO, call Steve (775) 745-0837.

--1989 Olds Cutlass Sierra V6, 4DR, AT, Blue, Cassette, Runs Well, 190k miles, \$1,000 OBO. Call Steve (775) 745-0837.

--1986 Mercury Cougar. Call 428-6645
Lowrider Bicycle Parts: 2 frames 1 gold, 1 red, tires, fenders handlebars, All for \$200 or best offer. Call Ruben at 775 428-1501.

Roper brand Dryer. Almost new works perfectly. \$200. Call Ruben at 775 428-1501.

--Kenwood stereo system with cabinet, speakers, 2 sided tape deck, tuner, cd player (holds 5 CDs) and amplifier all are also in excellent condition. Now asking \$500. Please call 423-2624.

--1995 G.E., 21.7 cu. ft., side-by-side, frost-free refrigerator/freezer with ice maker. Asking \$650/OBO. Phone AECS Jim Williamson at 426-3485, during normal working hours or 423-8619, after normal working hours.

--1994 CR250L Honda. Great bike! Includes brand new helmet, gloves & gas can. Must go. Asking \$1600 OBO. and

8'x8'x12' chain fence dog kennel. \$100 OBO, hp lawn mower. \$100 OBO. Contact Sean Lawson anytime. work (775) 426-3441. home (775) 423-9255. --Deluxe Stoller with car seat \$45 obo and "Hello Kitty" high chair, \$5; 2 bar stools, \$15 or 1 each, \$8 Call Mardie at 423-2246.

Share Rental—2 bedroom apt. in Fallon. \$275/ month. Includes utilities. 423-7918.

Misc.:

I am looking for a roommate to share a 2 bedroom, fully furnished apartment located in a quiet part of town. The rent is \$275 a month and includes all utilities (elec., gas, water, garbage) Cable TV and telephone are extra. It takes approximately 10-15 minutes to get to Fallon NAS 423-7918

FOR SALE: **7 pc. Patio Set**, 6 cushioney chairs w/60" rectangular table w/umbrella and stand. Gave \$450 in July of 2001. Will take \$150. Call Shaun at 428-6645.



OMBUDSMEN . . . WE NEED YOU!

By: *Marlene Casel, Director, Fleet & Family Support*

The Navy Family Ombudsman Program was created on September 14, 1970 by Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Elmo Zumwalt. In its continuing evolution, the program has progressed to meet the changing needs of today's Navy and its families.

Because the sacrifices required of Navy families are substantial, the focus of the Ombudsman program has shifted from its original agenda of a "grievance-processing role" to assisting commanding officers in their responsibilities for the morale and welfare of the families. Any quality of life activities that promote these goals may be included in the ombudsman program. Commanding Officers have the ability to define the parameters of their ombudsman program.

The Fleet and Family Support Center provides a variety of services to the Ombudsman Program that contributes to the program's effectiveness and the personal well-being of the ombudsmen. These services include:

- Coordinating ombudsman training for active duty and reserve commands
- Arranging and providing speakers and trainers for required trainings.
- Planning logistics and handling training administration.
- Providing speakers on a variety of topics for assembly meetings.
- Providing consultation and support to all ombudsman requesting information involving specific issues and/or I&R responses
- Maintaining a current ombudsman roster
- Providing space for assembly meetings, if necessary
- Organizing meetings and providing facilitators for ombudsman support groups
- Providing personal support and counseling for ombudsmen
- Assisting commands in the effective use of their ombudsmen.

The Fleet and Family Support Center staff appreciates the importance of the ombudsman program. Our goal is to expand our local ombudsman program and strengthen its outreach capabilities. In the next few weeks, FFSC staff will be contacting local and tenant commands as we update our ombudsman roster. If you are interested in becoming an ombudsman for your command, please contact your command leadership immediately. If you would like more information about the Navy Ombudsman Program, please contact Marlene Casel at the FFSC (426-3333). The FFSC is committed to maintaining a strong ombudsman program at NAS Fallon. Please join us in this effort.

Some Airlines Waive Ticket Exchange Fees for Troops

By Gerry J. Gilmore, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Some U.S. airlines are adjusting their rules so service members won't have to pay penalties if they need to alter ticket reservations because of military duty.

AirTran Airways, Delta Airlines and Hawaiian Airlines now waive ticket change fees for service members on military deployment orders, while ticketing changes on Southwest Airlines are currently free, according to Jean Marie Ward of the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

Continental, Frontier and Northwest Airlines waive change fees and also will issue refunds on request, she added.

Ward said particulars of these carriers' programs can be viewed at DoD's Military Assistance Program Web site <http://dod.mil/mapsite/airtickets.html>. Information from more airlines will be added as it becomes available, she said.

According to General Service Administration officials, a number of other airlines will waive ticket change penalties if service members present copies of their military orders or a letter from their commanders, Ward

noted. The waiver procedures are official company policy for some carriers, she said, but not all reservation or check-in personnel may know that. She suggested travelers call their airline for waiver information before going to the airport.

Much of the U.S. airline industry has been in a financial tailspin since Sept. 11, 2001, and have instituted or boosted penalties for customers who want new tickets because of missed flights or changes in their travel plans.

Military travelers became prime penalty targets on Oct. 7, 2001, when America launched its military offensive against global terrorism. Many thousands of active and reserve component service members already have been called up and deployed, Ward noted, and myriad thousands more have been tapped for duty as part of the U.S. military buildup for potential war against Iraq.

Questions were raised in late 2002 about the travel penalties faced by service members called off leave for military operations.

At DoD's request, GSA officials queried City Pairs Program carriers —



Desert Moon Theater

Fri	Jan. 17	6:30 pm	Extreme Ops (PG13)
		9 pm	Die Another Day (PG13)
Sat	Jan. 18	6:30 pm	The Hot Chick(PG-13)
		9 pm	Analyze That (R)
Sun	Jan. 19	noon	Treasure Planet(PG)
		2:30pm	Harry Potter (PG)
		6:30pm	Harry Potter(PG)
Mon	Jan. 20	6:30pm	The Hot Chick (PG-13)
Tues	Jan. 21	6:30 pm	Die Another Day (PG13)
Wed	Jan. 22	6:30 pm	Analyze That (R)
Thru	Jan. 23	6:30 pm	The Emporor's Club (PG13)
Fri	Jan. 24	6:30 pm	Maid in Manhattan (PG13)
		9 pm	Drumline (PG13)
Sat	Jan. 25	6:30 pm	Empire (R)
		9pm	Star Trek: Nemesis (PG13)
Sun	Jan. 26	2 pm	8 Crazy Nights (PG13)
		5:30 pm	Treasure Planet (PG)
		7:30 pm	Die Another Day (PG13)

Movie dates and times after Dec 15 TBA
Call the Theater for up-to-date times at 426-2552

Super Bowl Parties on Base!

PLANET X - Doors open at noon. Watch the game on the big screen TV. Enjoy free football food and great drink specials beginning at 1:00 pm. Win prizes!! Open to all-hands
CPO CLUB - Doors open at noon. Open to E-7and above along with their guests.



travel packages would be more difficult to alter.

"However, the travel issues related to short-term deployments are broader than changes in personal travel plans," Ward said. Certain military personnel, such as single and dual military parents, are required to have family care plans for deployments, she noted, adding that these plans can involve sending children to distant family members or bringing a caretaker into the home.

Ward said DoD is exploring the issue of this kind of short-fused family travel with the airlines. Pending new airline policies, she said, DoD recommends service members implementing plans that call for short-fused family travel ask their airline representative about eligibility requirements for any special fares.

Military families whose care plans rely on other forms of transportation should check their carriers' policies, Ward said. In any case, she noted, local military service relief societies might offer loans to cover these expenses

the contract carriers for government travelers — regarding ticket exchange penalties and waivers for military personnel, Ward remarked. Meanwhile, she added, Air Mobility Command officials pursued parallel inquiriesand ultimately coordinated much of the discussion between DoD and the airlines regarding waivers.

Information on the Military Assistance Program Web site notes that the Army Emergency Relief Society, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society and the Air Force Aid Society may provide loans to cover unexpected expenses resulting when air carriers don't waive fees or penalties.

The Web site notes that service members needing financial help of this type can call or visit the relief society office at the nearest military installation. The three organizations have reciprocal agreements with each other and the Coast Guard.

Policies for changing reservations or travel plans vary across the travel industry, Ward explained, noting that Amtrak tickets, for example, can be changed without charge in most cases. In contrast, prearranged

FULL
PAGE
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Theft, from Page 1

in Prime after January 1, 1999)

TriWest will be communicating directly with TRICARE beneficiaries and health care providers whose information was contained on the stolen hard drives. These communications will focus on the fact that the information was stolen and that affected individuals can take some precautionary measures to help protect against the unauthorized use of their personal information by following recommendations provided by the Federal Trade Commission.

TriWest will contact the beneficiaries via letter that will inform them about the incident, the potential for identity theft, and steps they should take to help protect against the unauthorized use of their information. Beneficiaries can access that information on the TriWest web site at www.triwest.com, and also obtain news announcements, timely updates

and links to useful government sites. For those beneficiaries who use the email service and still have questions, or for those individuals who do not have email or Internet access, they can call toll-free 1-888-339-9378.

TriWest has taken necessary and prudent steps to enhance the physical and electronic security of existing computer systems and data files to ensure this incident doesn't happen again. Updated policies and procedures already have been implemented to improve security and ensure the integrity of the data we manage on the government's behalf. Specific changes implemented at both of TriWest's Phoenix corporate offices include the retention of a uniformed security guard at the Corp II facility for all after-hours time periods; the expansion of existing security systems including additional intrusion-detection devices at Corp II; and additional uniformed security guards at

Corp I. A risk assessment of all TriWest servers in the field at TRICARE Service Centers is underway, and a comprehensive review of the company's data-security policies and procedures, including those for how employees manage materials in their workspace, is being conducted.

Why the delay between the time of the incident and notification of affected parties?

There was a delay in notification of affected parties because a large number of data files had to be restored from backup tapes to determine the extent of the loss so affected individuals can be notified in an accurate manner. TriWest continues to move forward as expeditiously as possible in hopes of mitigating any potential negative impact on the beneficiary population, which is the #1 priority, as well as other affected stakeholders such as the Department of Defense, network providers, subcontractors, etc.

Help, from page 1

health affairs, recently said more than 500,000 clients served by TriWest will receive letters advising them of the December theft. They will be offered detailed information on what they can do to safeguard against identity theft or fraud.

The Phoenix incident is a serious matter, emphasized Winkenwerder, noting that "personal information and records security are prime concerns" for the military's health care system.

DoD was notified of the theft Dec. 20. The Defense Criminal Investigative Service, FBI and other law enforcement authorities are investigating the incident. Anyone who may have knowledge of the Phoenix incident is asked to call a special toll-free hotline number:

1-800-424-9098.

TriWest covers TRICARE beneficiaries living in Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming, Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, and extreme western Texas. Affected beneficiaries can also call 1-800-343-TIPS for more information.

For more news from around the fleet, go to the Navy NewsStand Web page at www.news.navy.mil.

CNO, From page 2

the combined energy and teamwork of our entire Navy and Marine Corps team to achieve our vision, capture efficiencies, and strengthen how we organize, train, equip and integrate to fight."

The Sea Enterprise process, a key element of Sea Power 21, will enable the Navy to harvest efficiencies and reinvest savings to recapitalize and deliver increased combat capability.

The CNO adds that the Navy will continue to invest in its "number one resource" - Sailors.

"Growth and development' is our byline, and I expect every leader to be deeply involved in developing their shipmates. Active leadership is making it happen today and will do so in 2003," said Clark. "We will reward leaders who understand the challenges and through innovative and creative leadership, develop their people and accomplish the mission efficiently and effectively."

Clark also challenges every leader to enhance warfighting effectiveness at every level.

"Last year, I told you I wanted every leader to be evaluated on two things, their commitment to the growth and development of their people, and above all, to mission accomplishment. This year, I want to elaborate on that guidance. I want each of you to understand that mission accomplishment means both warfighting effectiveness and resourcefulness."

"Our Navy is the finest it has ever been and getting better every day. I am counting on you to continue our superb record of accomplishment and shape the Navy of tomorrow. Working together, we will achieve the vision."

Help Prepare for Your Future Health Care Many Choices Available for Long-Term Care Plans

It's usually hard to think about "worst-case scenarios" regarding our health care, but the importance of long-term care insurance can be well worth the thought and effort that goes into its planning.

Long-term care is the assistance you may need with everyday tasks like bathing, dressing and eating over an extended length of time, or even on a life-long basis, in the event you become seriously ill. These types of benefits are not covered under most medical insurance policies, nor are they covered by TRICARE, including TRICARE for Life.

Many people think that they won't need the extra assurance of a long-term care plan, but, along with rising costs for most every-

thing, the Federal Long-Term Care Insurance Program states that the average cost for an assisted-living facility in 2000 was \$25,000 per year. The organization projects that same cost at \$109,300 in 2003. People are living longer and Medicare does not cover custodial care. Without a long-term care plan, custodial care, if required for months or years, can deplete retirement savings.

Enrollment in the federal program began in Oct. 2002. Please note that the Federal Long-Term Care Insurance Program is not a TRICARE program.

For more information on the federal program, call 1-800-LTC-FEDS (582-3337) or visit www.LTC-EDS.com.

The following organizations can offer you additional information on long-term care coverage:

- The America Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (AAHSA) www.aahsa.org or 202-783-2242.

- America Health Care Association (AHCA) www.ahca.org or 202-842-4444.

- Health Insurance Association of American (HIAA) www.hiaa.org or 202-824-1600.

- National Council on Aging (NCOA) www.ncoa.org or 202-479-1200.

Polar Bears come to Fallon

Braving the early morning chill on Jan 11, several members of the NAS Fallon community participated in the third annual Polar Bear Swim at the Silver State Officers' Club, sponsored by MWR. The water temperature, at 42 degrees, was actually warmer than the outside temperature, which hovered at a brisk 28 degrees. Nonetheless, the 19 participants did not linger long in the frigid water. After a brave leap into the water and a frantic dash across the pool, participants were rewarded with hot cocoa and cookies. Each participant also received a T-shirt to commemorate the event.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

Tax time is here. The VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program will be available to all hands starting Feb 4 and every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 2pm to 6pm through April 7.

Tax preparation will be at no cost and includes electronic filing of both federal and most state tax returns. Electronic filing of returns ensures quick processing by the IRS and a quick refund. If you choose to receive your refund via electronic fund transfer, it will be transferred to the account you specify in approximately ten days.

Last year, the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program assisted over 700 customers and were able to file more than 570 federal and state tax returns saving the NAS Fallon taxpayers over \$48,000 in fees and aided in the prompt refund of over \$564,000.

The VITA office will be located in the Naval Air Station Fallon, Fleet and Family Support Center. Volunteers will be available in the office Tuesdays through Fridays from 2pm to 6pm.

For further information, contact LNC(AW) Haas, Legal Office, at ext. 2711 or call 2941 for the tax information line.